information received from 13 State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for the year 1997-98, the estimated average cost of Hydel and Thermal power generation for these 13 SEBs taken together is of the order of 43 p/kwh and 139 p/kwh respectively. The cost of generation for NTPC's power stations for the year 1997-98 varies between 58.46 p/kwh (Korba STPs) to 259.24 p/kwh (Gandhar GPs).

(b) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) It is difficult to compare the cost of power generation between the various countries due to differences in cost of fuel, fuel transportation, capital cost, difference in the tax regime etc.

Creating funds for Development of T and D System

4817. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the steps taken to create funds for development of transmission and distribution systems and for undertaking renovation and modernisation activities in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Planning Commission have initiated a Scheme for creation of special fund named Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) in order to give a fillip to the reform process in the power sector. The schemes proposes to cover activities relating to Renovation and Modernisation/Life Extension/Uprating of generating stations (both thermal and hydel) and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system. An amount of Rs. 1000 crores has been allocated for this scheme in the current year. The modalities for implementing the scheme and funding pattern are being finalized by the Planning Commission.

Capacity Utilisation of Power Plants

4818. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the capacity utilisation of thermal and hydel power plants in US, UK, Russia, China, South Korea, France, Australia & India; and

(b) what was the estimated capacity utilisation of the Thermal and Hydel Power plants at the point of their installations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER